



2026 CTF/FCE Teacher Collective Bargaining Conference Call for Session Proposals

CTF/FCE Teacher Collective Bargaining Conference

June 4-6, 2026 | Fredericton, NB

Theme: Future-Proofing Public Education

Dear colleagues,

The 2026 CTF/FCE Teacher Collective Bargaining Conference (TCBC), co-hosted by the New Brunswick Teachers' Federation (NBTF), will take place from June 4-6 in Fredericton.

As Canada's socio-political landscape continues to evolve, teachers and education workers are facing mounting pressures and deteriorating working conditions. These realities call for coordinated action and strategic solidarity. This year's theme, "**Future-Proofing Public Education**", focuses on equipping participants with the insights, strategies, and connections needed to tackle emerging challenges at the bargaining table and beyond.

Over two and a half days, attendees will engage in thoughtful dialogue and examine the trends shaping public education and the bargaining environment. Sessions will explore innovative approaches, effective practices, and labour relations strategies that respond to both current and anticipated challenges facing public education. By learning from a range of voices and experiences, participants will build a stronger foundation of shared knowledge to guide their bargaining strategies.

This conference offers a collaborative space for colleagues from across Canada, including bargaining staff and lead negotiators, human resource professionals, strategic communicators, researchers, and subject matter experts from CTF/FCE Member, Associate, and Partner Organizations. Together, we will build national networks, exchange knowledge, and advance shared priorities. Our collective goal is to secure the future of public education by reinforcing the conditions, values, and systems that enable both students and educators to thrive.

Sub-Themes and Areas of Focus

Proposals should align with the conference theme and address one or more of the key sub-themes below. To help guide submissions, the following focus areas highlight the priority issues influencing collective bargaining across Canada:

1. Evolving Working Conditions

Topics examining how the nature of teachers' work is changing and how these shifts impact bargaining priorities.

- Working conditions and workload pressures
- Complex classroom environments and class composition
- Safety, aggression, and violence in schools
- Climate change impacts on working conditions (heat days, wildfire smoke, flooding)

2. Workforce Sustainability

Issues related to recruitment, staffing, and long-term workforce stability.

- Staffing shortages and retention challenges
- Recruitment strategies, including in francophone minority settings
- Teacher well-being and systemic supports

3. Forces Shaping the Future of Public Education

Forward-looking themes that influence bargaining language and the long-term health of the public education system.

- Privatization and commercialization pressures
- Technology, AI, and digital transformation
- Socio-political trends and policy shifts affecting public education

4. Advancing Bargaining Strategy and Solidarity

Sessions offering practical tools, tactics, and evidence-informed approaches to strengthen bargaining capacity.

- Preparing for job action and strike-readiness
- Negotiation strategies and table dynamics
- Equity, diversity, and inclusion at the bargaining table
- Emerging models, research, and best practices in collective bargaining

Note: These sub-themes are provided as guiding areas of interest. Final programming will be determined by the CTF/FCE.

Session Proposal Guidelines

We invite proposals offering innovative, evidence-based, or practice-oriented perspectives that enhance the work of bargaining teams nationwide. Priority will be given to interactive sessions that contribute to a deeper understanding of emerging challenges, advance effective bargaining practices across jurisdictions, and reinforce sector-wide solidarity.

Proposed sessions must be relevant to union leaders, bargaining staff and lead negotiators and professionals working in areas such as human resources, strategic communications and research.

Format and timing

To keep the program dynamic, we are offering three ways to share knowledge and spark dialogue:

-  **Presentation (30 minutes)**

A structured talk to share information, research findings, or new insights with participants. Ideal for showcasing projects, best practices, or innovative ideas.

-  **Workshop (75 minutes)**

An interactive session with collaborative activities or problem-solving exercises. Perfect for engaging participants directly and providing practical tools they can take back to their organizations.

-  **Roundtable (45 minutes)**

A facilitated discussion where participants exchange perspectives on specific topics. Great for surfacing challenges, generating ideas, and building collective understanding.

Process, deadline, and financial considerations for proposals

- Please fill out the [Call for Proposals form](#) by **February 13, 2026 (17:00 ET)**.
- Presenters whose submissions have been selected will be informed by **February 27, 2026**.
- The session submission form must be signed by the Executive Director or a designate of your organization to be considered.
- Presenters from CTF/FCE Member or Associate Organizations receive free registration to the event.
- Travel, accommodation, and meal expenses other than meals offered at the Conference are the responsibility of the workshop presenter's organization. Please advise the CTF/FCE if your organization requires assistance with expenses related to your participation as a presenter.

[Download the Call for Proposals](#)

We look forward to receiving your proposal.

Questions?

For any questions about the organization of this conference, please contact Obianuju Harbor:
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